

Schools Forum

Title:	School Balances as at 31st March 2019
Date:	18 th June 2019
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Local members affected:	Maintained School members only

1. Summary

- This report is for information and looks at the balances at the financial year end for the 171 maintained schools in Buckinghamshire. Academies account for their own balances and report to the Department for Education.

2. Overall position

- Overall schools revenue balances are £12.75m in surplus, an increase of £2.25m compared to 2017/18. Capital balances also increased by £1.35m to £3.15m.

Type	No. of Schools	No. of Pupils	Total Income	17/18 Revenue Balance	18/19 Revenue Balance	Movement Revenue Balance
Nursery	2	179	1,807,082	-91,305	-434,541	-343,236
Primary	153	36,841	181,294,639	-8,922,150	-10,630,297	-1,708,147
Secondary	6	6,148	34,392,209	-171,081	-107,277	63,804
Special	8	1,076	26,077,275	-1,279,436	-1,355,576	-76,140
PRU	2	23	2,227,767	-38,580	-225,365	-186,786
Total	171	44,266	245,798,972	-10,502,552	-12,753,056	-2,250,504

- Total Income includes all sources of funding including government grants and school generated income.
- Further details by school type are summarised in the following sections of this report.

3. Surplus schools

- There are 13 schools with surpluses greater than £10,000 and over 15% of all income as per the Buckinghamshire County Council's scheme. Of these 11 had surpluses which increased in 2018/19. 2 had in year deficits. See table below:

Schools in Surplus	17/18 Revenue Balance	18/19 Revenue Balance	Movement Revenue Balance	Balance as a % of Income
Swanbourne CE School	-248,513	-277,372	-28,859	38.5%
Drayton Parslow Village School	-141,579	-112,714	28,865	32.2%
Hannah Ball Infant School	-183,752	-304,994	-121,241	31.4%
Bowerdean Nursery School	-73,909	-407,930	-334,022	28.8%
Westfield School	-251,601	-424,469	-172,868	26.9%
Whaddon CE School	-69,059	-88,167	-19,108	26.3%
Speen CE School	-66,937	-49,598	17,338	19.6%
Marsworth CE Infant School	-41,310	-48,461	-7,151	19.4%
St Peter's CE Combined School	-197,483	-249,788	-52,306	19.3%
Oak Green School	-378,247	-504,650	-126,403	17.6%
Bierton CE Combined School	-207,476	-222,741	-15,265	17.5%
St Edward's Catholic Junior School	-92,178	-173,919	-81,742	15.2%
Elmtree School	-38,843	-182,977	-144,133	15.1%

Appendix 1 – Shows the position for these schools over the last 5 years.

We have attempted to speak to all the schools to find out what future plans they have to reduce their surplus, a summary is provided below:

Swanbourne

This is a historical Minimum Funding Guarantee protection issue relating to when the school had significantly fewer pupils. The school is saving for a building project which is likely to be completed in two phases.

Drayton Parslow

Building improvement works planned for the summer. Improve the playground and ICT.

Hannah Ball Infant School

Grounds project delayed 50k/toilets/new doors/new furniture for reception class/extra LSA x2/low intake into reception Sept 2019

Bowerdean Nursery School

Balance is overstated due to children's centre funding that needs to be returned

Westfield School

Building Expansion Project

Whaddon CE School

Saving for an outdoor classroom (Phase 2 of an original project)

Speen CE School

Held in reserve to support school while numbers are low

Marsworth CE Infant School

Unexpected increase in funding – looking to carry out some repairs and maintenance

St Peter's CE Combined School

Looking to carry out premises and IT projects

Oak Green School

Unexpected increase in Funding – New equipment for hall/new doors/playground

Bierton

School are going through an expansion project, in part funded through the LA capital programme.

St Edward's Catholic Junior School

Premises projects: Deep clean/refurbishments/lockers, longer term change to access of site.

Elmtree School

Possible loss of ARP/Staff Room Refurb/PE Grant Carryover/Nursery Refurb

4. Schools with deficits

Where a school is identified as at risk during the financial year, Schools finance will contact the school for an informal conversation with the head teacher and/or finance team within the school. Additional information may be requested for example:

- Latest monitoring report
- Reports sent to governors
- Staffing projections
- Updated 3 year plans
- Actions proposed to address deficit

If a robust recovery plan is in place with recovery within 3- 5 years the school will be required to apply for a licenced deficit and monthly monitoring by the schools finance team will be put in place.

Where no recovery plan is in place within 3 years, but a sustainable balanced budget for future years has been identified, the school may apply for a limited licenced deficit for one year. The school will be required to submit a full three year forecast which has been agreed by the governing body, on a quarterly basis.

If the school breach the agreed licence or they show a rising cumulative deficit, a notice of financial concern may be issued.

Appendix 2 shows a summary of all schools currently with deficits

5. Background information:

'Scheme for financing schools' - agreed by Schools Forum.

[Scheme for financing Schools | SchoolsWeb](#)

4.2 Controls on surplus balances

Schools that have excessive surplus balances will be required to report to Schools forum on an annual basis. Excessive surpluses are defined as 15% or more (on all the school's income) for the last 5 years and at least £10,000 each year. The authority reserves the right to clawback excessive surpluses following consultation with Schools Forum.